



HOW MANY?

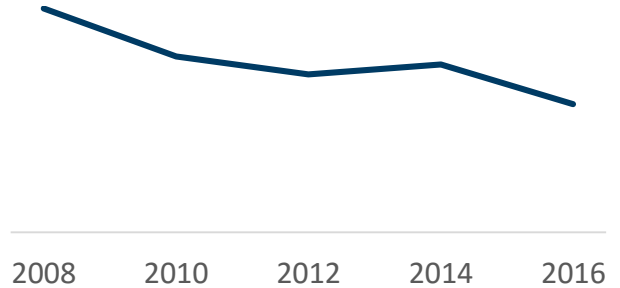
1752

people were counted as experiencing homelessness in Edmonton

70% of these are chronically homeless

43% decrease

in the number of people counted experiencing homelessness from 2008 to 2016



WHERE?



22%
unsheltered



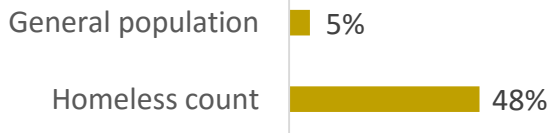
43%
emergency sheltered



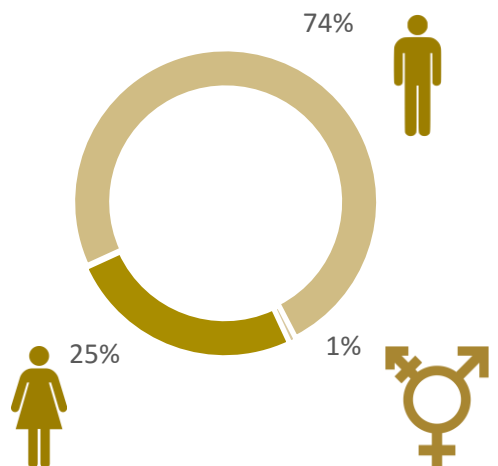
36%
provisionally accommodated

WHO?

Indigenous Identity



70 Veterans
of the military or RCMP



Overview

Introduction

On October 19 and 20, 2016, Edmonton conducted its twelfth Homeless Count. The Homeless Count occurs once every two years to help our community understand how many of those living in Edmonton are experiencing homelessness, and who they are.

Homeward Trust Edmonton coordinates the Homeless Count as part of our work supporting Edmonton's Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness. Approximately 300 volunteers and 40 organizations participated in counting at different locations across the city.

Edmonton's Homeless Count serves two important functions: it provides a current snapshot of our overall homeless population, and it shows us how this population changes over time. Ultimately, this informs solutions to support the goal of ending homelessness in our community.

Alberta's Cities Leading the Way

Alberta's 7 Cities on Housing & Homelessness all conducted their Homeless Counts at the same time. In addition, these communities agreed upon common methodology so that the result would provide a much clearer picture of homelessness in Alberta.

Methods

Edmonton's Homeless Count occurred over a 24-hour period from 7pm on October 19th to 7pm on the 20th. Surveys were conducted on the streets, in parks, at transit stations and at numerous agencies serving people experiencing homelessness. Data was also provided by shelters, short-term supportive housing providers, and some government agencies that accommodate people overnight.

New This Year

- For the first time, most volunteers collected survey data electronically using a tablet or smartphone rather than completing paper surveys. Edmonton was the only city in Alberta to use electronic data collection for the 2016 Homeless Count.
- This was Edmonton's first year conducting a street count at night (7-10 PM). Unlike most Alberta cities, Edmonton continued to conduct a day count.
- This year's Homeless Count included a focus on parkland, with the help of approximately 25 park rangers, street outreach team members, and river operations employees.

Successful Methods from Previous Counts

- In order to count someone as homeless, a survey had to be completed. Volunteers were not asked to count based on what they assumed or guessed about someone.
- Anyone over the age of 18 (or 13 if without a parent) was surveyed if they were encountered by a volunteer.
- To avoid double-counting, volunteers first asked individuals if they had already completed the survey.

Historical Comparability

To maintain comparability over time, the numbers included here vary slightly from those in the 7 Cities report: individuals encountered during the day count are included, as are those who had no permanent residence and were staying with someone else. The 375 individuals held in provincial correctional facilities who were from Edmonton and did not have a home when incarcerated are not included.

Characteristics

| Characteristic | # | % |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------|
| Gender | | |
| Male | 1205 | 74% |
| Female | 408 | 25% |
| Transgender or Other | 11 | 0.7% |
| Indigenous | | |
| First Nations | 316 | 29% |
| Metis | 140 | 13% |
| Inuit | 15 | 1% |
| Non-status | 32 | 3% |
| Not specified | 15 | 1% |
| Age Groups (years) | | |
| 0-17 | 148 | |
| 18-24 | 85 | |
| 25-30 | 133 | |
| 31-44 | 361 | |
| 45-54 | 299 | |
| 55-64 | 214 | |
| 65+ | 42 | |
| Adult or independent youth, age unknown | 456 | |
| Recent (within past 5 years) immigrant or refugee | 37 | 3% |
| Lesbian, gay, bisexual, two-spirited or queer | 86 | 8% |
| Canadian Military or RCMP | 70 | 6% |
| Dependent children | 139 | 8% |

Broader Trends

It is important that results of the count be contextualized in the broader economic trends impacting Edmonton, including the recent economic downturn.

Population Growth

While slowing, the city continues to experience population growth, increasing 2.5% from 2014 to 2016.

Unemployment

The unemployment rate in Edmonton increased from 5.4% in 2014 to 8.1% in 2016.

Migration

There were 21,408 people who came from outside the city within less than 1 year according to the 2016 Civic Census. The proportion of mobility in Edmonton is similar to the proportion of mobility among the homeless surveyed (approximately 3%)

Housing Affordability

The vacancy rates increased from 1.7% in 2014 to 7.0% in 2016 and the average rental costs are essentially unchanged for a 1-bedroom or bachelor suite, according to CMHC (2016). Over 40% of renters in Edmonton are experiencing housing affordability challenges and about 1 in 10 are in low income according to Statistics Canada (2011).

Indigenous people over-represented

The over-representation of Indigenous people remains an ongoing concern. While 5.4% of Edmonton's general population self-identified as Indigenous, about half of those surveyed in the homeless count self-identified as Indigenous.

| Socioeconomic Indicators | Edmonton (Most recent) | Edmonton (2014) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Unemployment [1] | 8.1% (2016) | 6.1% (2015) |
| Migration [2] (# who moved from outside Edmonton >1 year ago) | 21,408 (2016) | 44,685 |
| Mobility [2] (% of population who moved from outside Edmonton >1 year ago) | 2.3% (2016) | 5.1% |
| Population growth [2] | 899,447 (2016) | 877,926 |
| Housing Affordability [3] (% of households spending 30% or more of total income on shelter) | 24.5% (All) 40.8% (Renters) (2011) | - |
| Rental vacancy rates [4] (Vacancy and Availability Rates (%) in Privately Initiated Rental Apartment Structures of Three Units and Over) | 7.0% (2016) | 1.7% |
| Rental costs [4] | \$999 (1 bed) \$851 (Bach) (2016) | \$1002 (1 bed) \$844 (Bach) |
| Low Income [3] (% of persons in low income – After-Tax Low Income Measure) | 10.8% (2011) | - |
| Indigenous People [3] (% of population self-identifying as Indigenous) | 5.4% (2011) | - |
| Immigrants [3] (% of population who were foreign-born) | 20.4% (2011) | - |

References

- [1] Statistics Canada. (2016). *Labour force characteristics, unadjusted, by census metropolitan area (3 month moving average) (Calgary (Alta.), Edmonton (Alta.), Kelowna (B.C.))*. Retrieved from <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/lfs04k-eng.htm>
- [2] City of Edmonton. (2016). *Detailed census results comparison (2016, 2014, 2012, 2009)*. Retrieved from https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/census/Detailed%20Census%20Results%20Comparison%202016%202014%202012%202009.pdf
- [3] Statistics Canada. (2015). National Household Survey, including:
NHS Aboriginal Population Profile, Edmonton, CY, Alberta, 2011
NHS Data Tables 99-014-X2011031, Edmonton
NHS Data Tables 99-014-X2011037, Edmonton
Retrieved from <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/index-eng.cfm>
- [4] Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. (2016). *Housing market information: rental market statistics*. Retrieved from https://www.cmhc-schl.gc.ca/odpub/esub/64379/64379_2016_A01.pdf